

Investigating the Criminals Exposed to Inter-partner Violence and Child Abuse: A Case-control Study

Abstract

Introduction: There are numerous studies on the intergenerational transmission of violence and criminal acts. However, the role of the confounding factors has been suggested as social and contextual factors. This study investigated whether violent criminals are more exposed to both their parents' inter-partner violence (IPV) and their own childhood abuse in comparison to noncriminal people after controlling for potentially confounding factors. **Methods:** This is a retrospective study on 101 Iranian young medical students at the Qazvin University of Medical Science (control) and 98 young adults who have been imprisoned in Choobindar prison due to violent crimes. Two groups have been assessed by Adult Recall Version of The Revised Conflict Tactics Scales: CTS2-CA and CTSPC-CA questionnaires. **Results:** Logistic regression of IPV and demographic variables showed that $\exp(\beta)$ for father's and mother's education in criminals is 0.307 and 0.203, respectively. Father's and mother's education were significant predictors of inter-partner violence among criminals with odds ratio of 0.24 and 0.29, respectively. Furthermore, childhood psychological aggregation and neglect are meaningful factors. **Conclusion:** After controlling for potentially confounding risk factors, multinomial logistic regression analyses revealed that a history of witness IPV is not associated with the criminal act. The family context is important which they grew up in, such as mother's and father's education. Many criminal acts are the result of a combination of several factors, such as psychological, educational, cultural, social, and economic factors.

Keywords: Childhood violence exposure, crime, inter, Iran, partner violence, risk factors

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Introduction

Over 20 years, there are a number of studies on the intergenerational transmission of violence in terms of being exposed to inter-partner violence (IPV) and child abuse leading to criminal acts later in life.^[1,2] Clearly, child abuse is one of the social problems that can be considered as one of the priorities of mental and social health issues. This is due to the wide range of effective factors and profound effects on the development of the child, family, and the community. Since children are the most vulnerable in the society, child abuse and child neglect are the most common and complex social and psychological problems of the societies.^[3] The history of child abuse in childhood has long-lasting and unpleasant effects on the development and adaptability of personality in adulthood.^[1,4-6] Despite many parents are unaware of the adverse consequences of

domestic violence,^[7] family plays a major role in the incidence of child abuse and the likelihood of certain criminal offenses, including child abuse, punishment, and improper parenting behaviors in childhood. Factors such as stress, paternalistic values, poverty, mental illness, and personality disorders are the major causes of family violence and abuse. The long-term negative consequences of this kind of abuse include high risks of substance addiction, obesity, violence, depression, and suicide.^[8-11]

IPV is a generally acknowledged factor which consists of a wide range of violence that many children experience. The child can also be victimized by such violence between the adults. Parental conflict is the leading cause of domestic violence. This concept predicates the multiple exposures of the children at home to the occasions that (at least) one adult is using violent actions to influence another adult.^[12] It is a negative behavior in terms of cultural values and threatening the family's strength. IPV varies from severe physical abuse

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